INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IB2004/052452

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G01R33/341 G01R33/3415

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

 $\begin{array}{ll} \mbox{Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)} \\ \mbox{IPC 7} & \mbox{G01R} \end{array}$

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, INSPEC

Category °	Citation of document, with Indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 491 415 A (HOLMES ET AL) 13 February 1996 (1996-02-13) column 4, line 66 - column 7, line 67; figures 2-7	1,2, 6-10, 12-20
X	US 4 918 388 A (MEHDIZADEH ET AL) 17 April 1990 (1990-04-17) column 3, line 49 - column 5, line 44; figures 2-8	1-5,8, 12-20
X	US 6 320 383 B1 (KATO YASUSHI ET AL) 20 November 2001 (2001-11-20) column 8, line 15 - column 9, line 39; figures 10-13	1-5,8, 12-14, 19,20
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	χ Patent family members are listed in annex.
Special categories of cited documents: A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance E earlier document but published on or after the international filling date L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	 "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
31 January 2005	09/02/2005
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk	Authorized officer
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PCT/IB2004/052452

C.(Continu	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	101/182004/052452		
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Х	US 5 136 244 A (JONES ET AL) 4 August 1992 (1992-08-04) column 5, line 53 - column 10, line 2; figures 2,4-6	1-5,8, 12,14, 15,19,20		
X	US 5 682 098 A (VIJ ET AL) 28 October 1997 (1997-10-28) column 5, line 36 - column 5, line 57 column 6, line 50 - column 7, line 23; figures 5A,8	1-5,8, 12,14-20		
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X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 016, no. 140 (C-0926), 8 April 1992 (1992-04-08) & JP 03 297447 A (TOSHIBA CORP), 27 December 1991 (1991-12-27) abstract	1-5,8, 12-14, 18-20		
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